Production of herbs

900. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to protect and increase the production of herbs available in the peaks in the country, State-wise; and

(b) whether research centres and protection centres for this purpose have been established in Himachal Pradesh; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Department of ISM&H has associated the following institutions to develop Agro-techniques on various medicinal plants in the high altitudes in the country. Each institution is working on 4 plants, suitable to that area.

1. S.K. University of Agricultural Science & Technology, Shalimar (J&K)
2. Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwa Vidyalaya, Palampur (H.P.)
3. High Altitudes Plant Phys. Research Centre, HNB Garwal University, Srinagar, Garwal (U.P.)
4. I.C.F.R.E., F.R.I., P.O. New Forest, Dehradun (U.P.)
5. Instt. Of Himalayan Bioresource Tech., Palampur, P.O. No. 6, Himachal Pradesh
6. NBPGR, Regional Station, Shimla (H.P.)

The CCRAS centre at Mandi, Himachal Pradesh is working on Survey of Medicinal Plants. Two gardens at NERI and Joginder Nagar, in Himachal Pradesh have been supported by Central Government and State Government. Work on medicinal Plants on

project basis is going on in the CSIR Lab., Palampur, HP Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Palampur, Dr. Y. S. Parmar University, Solan.

Rehabilitation package for IDPL

901. DR. GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PAUL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals "Ltd. (IDPL), a sick PSU, in consultation with the workers, prepared a revised rehabilitation plan, based on which the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals prepared a package which was forwarded to various Ministries; and

(b) if so, what was the reaction of various Ministries on the Package plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) The IDPL management in consultation with the workers, had prepared a rehabilitation plan and submitted to the Government on 24.10.1997. This Plan has now been updated by IDPL with cut-off dates as March 31, 2000 and June 30, 2000 and has been sent by the company recently to the Government.

Performance of NFL

902. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI KHAGEN DAS:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the performance of National Fertilizers Limited (NFL) during the last three years;

(b) whether Government have decided to sell 51 per cent shares of NFL to private investors;